Export of Colour T. V. Sets

1266. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colour TV sets which have been exported during the first six months of the current financial year; and

(b) what is the total orders which are in hand and the name of the countries to whom TV sets were exported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the first six months of the current financial year more than 40,000 colour TV sets had been exported.

(b) The details about the total orders in hand is not available. However, the order position is reported to be quite comfortable. The countries to which colour TV sets have been exported include Germany, UK, Ireland, URE, Italy, Oman, Baharain, Rawanda, Kenya, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Uganda, Singapore, Australia, Romania etc.

(SOURCE: Electronic and Computer Software EPC)

Rate of Growth of Export

1267. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of rate of export during the current financial year is declining; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The rate of growth of exports, in dollar terms, during April—October 1993-94, the latest period for which aggregate trade data is available, is above 20% over the corresponding period last year. Exports during April—October 1992-93, in dollar terms, had registered a growth of 6% over April—October, 1991-92.

Export of Agricultural Products

1268. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand for many agricultural commodities, cut flowers and horticultural products in the international markets, if so, whether government have made a systematic assessment of the demand in foreign markets with details, country-wise and commodity-wise;

(b) whether Government engaged professional marketing personnel to carry out the demand survey, country-wise and commodity-wise, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is India's percentage of share in world export trade of agricultural products with details, country-wise and commodity-wise;

(d) whether the total volume of farm exports is still very low and there is over-dependence on a few commodities, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what positive steps Government have taken to augment the exports from the farm sector with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has made an assessment of demand of agricultural commodities in the international market for which there is potential for export from India. Detailed market survey has not been carried out in respect of all commodities.

(b) Government has not engaged any professional marketing personnel to carry out the demand survey for agricultural commodities in international markets. However, various Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Export Promotion Development Authority conduct market surveys in major markets for selected agricultural commodities.

(c) India's share of export of agro-based commodities is less than 1% of the world trade. Commodity-wise details of India's share in world trade are contained in Table No. 7.5 (Pages S-94 to S-96) of the Economic Survey 1992-93, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(d) Yes, Sir. The major reasons being low productivity and high price of raw materials; inadequate processing facilities; poor capital investment and high rate of interest; heavy post-harvest losses due to inadequate and unscientific post-harvest management practices; and lack of concentrated production facilities for export quality production near exit points.

(e) Government plans to promote export of agricultural commodities like super-fine varieties of rice, durum wheat, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, cachew kernels, spices, oilcakes, meat and meat products, etc., in a big way. While maximising foreign exchange from the agricultural sector, the strategy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise with our food security. The introduction of a unified exchange rate, liberalisation made in the EXIM Policy 1992—97, lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector, extension of the benefits available to units under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EQUs), Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and allowing the exporters of agricultural commodities to export 50% of their produce, the Commodity Boards etc., participation in exhibitions abroad, sponsor trade delegations and arrange Buyer Seller Meets, inter-action with the importers, are all steps aimed at promoting export of agricultural commodities.

Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco by Cigaratte Industries

1269. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cigarette industry has given any undertaking or commitment to the Tobacco Board or Commerce Ministry to purchase a set quantity of fluecured Virginia tobacco; and

(b) if so, the quantity of fluecured Virginia (F.C.V.) tobacco which cigarette manufacturers have purchased this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) At the time of crop planning domestic cigarette manufactures indicate their requirements of FCV Tobacco crop. Details of quantities indicated and actual purchases made by cigarette manufacturers are as follows:

	1992-93 AP Crop (Marketed in 1993)	1993 Karnataka Crop (ongoing auctions)
Quantity indicated (M. kgs.)	90.37	21.50
Quantity purchased (M. Kgs.)	83.085	3.63 (upto 22-11-93)

Decision on Joining Nafta

1270. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a view on whether we should joining NAFTA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any connection between joining NAFTA and signing of the proposals under discussion in the Uruguay round of multilateral negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for India to join NAFTA.

(c) No, Sir.